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Remarks

Doubling Patenting

The examiner rejected claims 1-26 and 41-51 based on double patenting. In reply, applicants have cancelled these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claims 27-40. Applicants have rewritten these claims such that they do not depend on any cancelled claims. To this end, claims 27-33 have been cancelled and rewritten as new claims 52-58 and claims 34 and 35 have been rewritten in independent form. In rewriting these claims, Applicants have attempted to maintain essentially the same wording as the underlying claims; however, some minor modifications were necessary to enhance clarity and consistency. Applicants therefore urge to the examiner to review the claims to ensure that the amendments are in accordance with his views.

In light of the above remarks, an early and favorable reply is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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